



LABORATORY UPDATE

January 20th, 2020

Single Tube Collection for QuantiFERON®-TB Gold Plus

Dear Physician(s) and Staff,

Effective Monday January 20th, 2020, Enzo Clinical Labs will accept single tube collection of specimens for the Qiagen QuantiFERON® -TB Gold Plus (QFT®-Plus) assay. This FDA approved Interferon-gamma Release Assay (IGRA) for *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection is intended for use in conjunction with risk assessment, radiography and other medical and diagnostic evaluations. The QFT-Plus is the fourth generation in QuantiFERON®-TB testing technology assessing cell-mediated response through a quantitative measurement of IFN- γ in a whole blood sample. The CDC recommends IGRAs for the majority of the U.S. testing population and for most risk groups (those likely to be infected with TB, anyone with low or intermediate risk of disease progression or those for whom testing for latent TB infection is warranted). IGRAs are also strongly recommended for those who are BCG vaccinated or those unlikely to return to have their TST read. QFT®-Plus offers single visit testing which is highly accurate and reproducible with >97% specificity and >94% sensitivity.

The single tube collection will only be accepted in a no gel green top Lithium Heparin tube and must contain at least 5 mL of blood. If less than 5 mL of blood are received in the Lithium Heparin tube, the QuantiFERON®-TB Gold Plus assay cannot be run and the test will be cancelled.

Draw instructions: Collect a minimum of 5 mL blood by venipuncture into a no-gel lithium heparin (green top) tube and gently mix by inverting the tube several times to dissolve the heparin. The tube must be held at room temperature (17–25°C) between 15 minutes and 3 hours after blood collection and then refrigerated (2–8°C) for transport to the laboratory within 48 hours.

The four tube QuantiFERON® -TB Gold Plus collection kit will continue to be accepted.

TEST INFORMATION	
TEST NAME	QuantiFERON® -TB Gold Plus
TEST CODE	2583
SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS	Single Green Top Lithium Heparin tube containing at least 5 mL of whole blood. OR Four tube QFT®-Plus collection kit
TESTING SCHEDULE	Monday-Friday (excluding holidays)
TURN AROUND TIME	4 Days

We appreciate the continued opportunity to serve you and your patients and welcome any questions or concerns you may have. You can reach us at 631-755-5500 or talk to your Enzo Clinical Labs Sales and/or Service Representative for more information.

Sincerely,

Dieter Schapfel, MD
Medical Director

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